

III. Claim Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid separation device for separating fluid or fluid spray from a gas comprising:

at least ~~one~~ two base carriers ~~carrier~~ having a generally plate-like shape and being arranged in series,

at least one fluid separator element arranged in ~~the~~ each base carrier, wherein the fluid separator element comprises a flow-through tube with a gas inlet, a gas outlet, and a worm-like segment disposed between the gas inlet and the gas outlet, the worm-like segment having screw thread surfaces defining at least one a worm-like gas flow path with an inner wall of the flow-through tube,

wherein the at least one separator element of a first one of the at least two base carriers is aligned with the at least one separator element of a second one of the at least two base carriers to form a generally continuous flow path,

wherein the worm-like segment has a length not greater than 0.5 times a pitch of the worm-like segment, and further wherein each ~~the at least one~~ fluid separator element and the ~~at least one~~ corresponding base carrier are integrally formed as one piece.

Claims 2-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The fluid separation device of claim 1, wherein ~~the at least one~~ each base carrier comprises two or more separator elements ~~disposed~~ formed adjacent one another in a plane of the base carrier, the two or more separator elements being integrally formed with the base carrier as one piece.

19. (Currently Amended) The fluid separation device of claim 1, wherein said worm-like segment of said flow-through tube divides said flow-through tube into two flow paths, comprising at least two base carriers, the at least one separator element of a first one of the at least two base carriers being aligned with the at least one separator element of a second one of the at least two base carriers to form a generally continuous

~~flow path.~~

20. (Previously Presented) The fluid separation device of claim 19, wherein a rotational direction of a worm-like segment of a separator element of a first base carrier is in a same direction as a worm-like segment of a separator element of a second base carrier.

21. (Previously Presented) The fluid separation device of claim 19, wherein a rotational direction of a worm-like segment of a separator element of a first base carrier is in an opposite direction as a worm-like segment of a separator element of a second base carrier.

22. (Currently Amended) The fluid separation device of claim 19, wherein an outlet-side edge of the at least one thread surface of a first worm-like segment of the at least one separator element of the first base carrier is rotated at an angle with respect to an inlet-side edge of the at least one thread surface of the worm-like segment of the at least one separator element of the second base carrier, the angle being between ~~one of~~ 0° , 45° , 90° and 135° .

23. (Previously Presented) The fluid separation device of claim 19, wherein the at least two base carriers are connected by a positive fit.

24. (Previously Presented) The fluid separation device of claim 19, wherein the at least two base carriers are one or more of glued, screwed and locked to one another.

25. (Previously Presented) The fluid separation device of claim 19, wherein the at least two base carriers each include at least one feature for fixing the relative position of the

at least two base carriers to one another.

26. (Previously Presented) The fluid separation device of claim 25, wherein the at least one feature for fixing the relative position of the at least two base carriers to one another comprises at least one bulge on a first base carrier and at least one recess on a second base carrier that corresponds to the at least one bulge on the first carrier.

27. (Currently Amended) The fluid separation device of claim 1, wherein said plate-like base carriers and said at least one fluid separator element are comprised of one or more of glass, plastic and metal.

28. (Currently Amended) The fluid separation device of claim 1, wherein said plate-like base carriers and said at least one fluid separator element are comprised of one or more of a ~~dureplast~~ thermoset, thermoplastic ~~thermoplast~~ and an elastomer.

29. (Currently Amended) The fluid separation device of claim 28, wherein said plate-like base carriers and said at least one fluid separator element are the one or more of a ~~dureplast~~ thermoset, thermoplastic ~~thermoplast~~ and an elastomer has a $T_g \geq 80^\circ\text{C}$.

30. (Currently Amended) The fluid separation device of claim 1, wherein said plate-like base carriers and said at least one fluid separator element are comprised of a polyamide material.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a fluid separation device, comprising

~~integrally forming at least one base carrier with at least one fluid separator element therein, the fluid separator element including a flow through tube having a gas inlet, a gas outlet and a worm like segment disposed between the gas inlet and the gas outlet, the worm like segment disposed between the gas inlet and the gas outlet, the worm like segment having thread surfaces defining a gas flow path with an inner wall of the flow through tube, the worm like segment having a length not greater than .5 times a pitch of the worm like segment.~~

providing at least two base carriers, each being separately integrally formed and each having a plate-like shape;

integrally forming at least one fluid separator element in each base carrier;

providing each fluid separator element with an integrally formed flow-through tube having an axial gas inlet, an axial common gas and fluid outlet;

locating an integrally formed worm-like segment between the gas inlet and the gas outlet;

forming the worm-like segment with screw thread surfaces, said surfaces defining at least one gas flow path with an inner wall of the flow-through tube;

providing the worm-like segment with a length not greater than 0.5 times a pitch of the worm-like segment;

arranging said base carriers in series with one another;

aligning the at least one separator element of a first one of the at least two base

carriers with the at least one separator element of a second one of the at least two base carriers; and

forming a generally continuous flow path with said aligned separator elements.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein integrally forming each of said base carriers with their respective carrier and said the at least one fluid separator elements element comprises co-extruding ~~the said base carriers carrier and the said at~~ least one fluid separator ~~element~~ elements.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~32~~ 31, wherein integrally forming said base carrier and said at least one fluid separator element comprises ~~wherein the base carrier and the at least one fluid separator element are co-extruding utilizing a die cast method or injection molding method.~~

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one base carrier and the at least one fluid separator element are formed of at least one of a glass material, a plastic material, a metal material, a ~~duroplast~~ thermoset material, a thermoplast material, an elastomer material, and a polyamide material.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of separating oil from a blow by gas in a valve cover of a combustion engine utilizing the fluid separating device of claim 1~~ The fluid separation device of claim 19, wherein an outlet-side edge of at least one of said surfaces of said screw thread surfaces of a first worm-like segment of said at least one

separator element of said first base carrier is rotated at an angle with respect to an inlet-side edge of at least one of said surfaces of said screw thread surfaces of a second worm-like segment of said at least one separator element of said second base carrier, said angle being about 90°.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of separating water from an electrochemical cell utilizing the fluid separation device of claim 1~~ The fluid separation device of claim 19, wherein an outlet-side edge of at least one of said surfaces of said screw thread surfaces of a first worm-like segment of said at least one separator element of said first base carrier is not rotated with respect to an inlet-side edge of at least one of said surfaces of said screw thread surfaces of a second worm-like segment of said at least one separator element of said second base carrier.

37. (New) A fluid separation device for separating fluid or fluid spray from a gas, comprising:

one plate-like base carrier having a generally plate-like shape;

at least two fluid separator elements integrally formed in said carrier as one piece, wherein said fluid separator elements each comprise a flow-through tube with an axial gas inlet, a common axial gas and fluid outlet, and a worm-like segment having screw thread surfaces defining a worm-like gas flow path with an inner wall of the flow-through tube;

wherein a wall of one of said flow-through tubes of one of said fluid separator elements forms a wall of one of said flow-through tubes of another of said fluid

separator elements;

wherein the worm-like segment has a length not greater than 0.5 times a pitch of the worm-like segment.

38. (New) A method of forming a fluid separation device, comprising:

providing a base carrier having a plate-like shape;

integrally forming at least two fluid separator elements in said base carrier;

providing each fluid separator element with an integrally formed flow-through tube having an axial gas inlet, an axial common gas and fluid outlet;

forming one wall of one of said flow-through tubes of one fluid separator elements so as to form a wall of one of said flow-through tubes of another of said fluid separator elements;

locating an integrally formed worm-like segment between said axial gas inlet and said axial common gas and fluid outlet;

forming said worm-like segment with screw thread surfaces, said surfaces defining at least one gas flow path with an inner wall of said flow-through tube; and

providing said worm-like segment with a length not greater than 0.5 times a pitch of said worm-like segment.

39. (New) The fluid separation device of claim 1, wherein said gas inlet is an axial gas inlet and said gas outlet is an axial outlet for gas and fluid.